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August 25, 2005

Senator Bruce Patterson
505 Farnum Building
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Dear Senator Patterson:

I regret I am unable to attend your August 25th community hearing at Grosse Ile High School because of a longstanding commitment. I respectfully request that this letter and the attached enclosures be entered into the official hearing record.

A second Detroit River border crossing has been an issue that has concerned business as well as a succession of gubernatorial and presidential administrations. The process must be guided by an open, fair, and transparent means, where all citizens are confident that they are able to express their concerns to their government and those concerns will be heard, having an effect on the outcome.

The best way to guarantee that a new crossing is welcome in southeast Michigan is to ensure citizens are able to provide their opinions throughout the process, providing guidance to government where it should or should not be developed. It is also important that all levels of government work cooperatively, ensuring the citizens of southeast Michigan are served with the first, best decision that can be rendered through a thorough process that requires the utmost citizen input.

Recently, I have sought answers from the Federal Highway Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Michigan Department of Transportation of questions about the process to be sure what everyone know what the process is and should be. Without these answers, the people have no assurance that the process will be fair, open, and inclusive. I ask that you include these letters in the record.

I will see to it that copies of these responses are provided to you and I ask that these are inclusion in the record. I will release the responses I receive to the public at the earliest possible time to enable the citizens of Downriver and other Michigan residents to understand fully the character of the process.

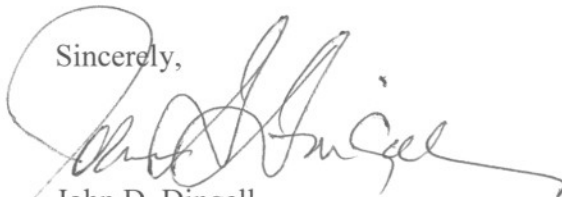
As author of NEPA, I will continue to work with all parties involved to ensure all requirements of that statute and other applicable federal statutes are met to ensure full citizen participation in the decision making process. I look forward to working with you and the other elected representatives of the Downriver communities to ensure that our concerns and those of the people we serve are met by the agencies that are considering this issue.

An additional crossing to the Detroit River is strongly supported by many in business and industry. These studies will enable the partners to come forward with the best judgment as to where and when a crossing should be built. I take no position on this at this time. To fail to have a fair, open, and public process and a careful study could lead to a bridge being built in the wrong way and the wrong place, adversely impacting the interest of our constituents.

Although I no longer represent Grosse Ile, I have spoken to my colleague John Conyers, and we are in full agreement that in representing Downriver we will see to it the purpose set out in this letter is carried forward.

Thank you for including this letter and the related attachments into the record of the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Dingell", written over a large, loopy circular flourish.

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress